

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 MC-01 PM-03 ACDA-10 OMB-01

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R 231312Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 263385

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, SU, SA

SUBJECT: SUDANESE INTEREST IN F-5E AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 2942, (B) JIDDA 6868

1. FOR RECORD, NORTHROP HAD NOT OBTAINED DEPARTMENT OF
ST E MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE TO DISCUSS F-5E TECHNICAL
DATA WITH GOS ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW NATURE NORTHROP
DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS, ARMS SALESMEN CAN LEGALLY BASE SALES
PROMOTION UPON TRADE JOURNAL ARTICLES AND ADVERTISEMENTS.
SUCH DISCUSSIONS DO NOT REQUIRE MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE.

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FOR DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL DATA AS IT PERTAINS TO MUNITIONS

CONTROL EXPORT LICENSE PROCEDURES, SEE 10 FAM 750,
APPENDIX A, PART 125.

2. AMBASSADOR WAS ENTIRELY CORRECT, OF COURSE, IN CAUTION-
ING NORTHROP ABOUT FAIRLY CONSIDERABLE CURRENT WASHINGTON
OPPOSITION, ESPECIALLY ON PART OF CONGRESS, TO SOPHISTI-
CATED ARMS SALES TO LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. SINCE ANY
SALE OF F-5E AIRCRAFT TO SUDAN WOULD LIKELY EXCEED \$25
MILLION, SECTION 38(B)(3) OF ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT
WOULD REQUIRE SALE TO BE HANDLED ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERN-
MENT BASIS THROUGH FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) PRO-

CEDURES. SECTION 36(B) OF SAME ACT WOULD ALSO REQUIRE
PRESIDENT TO NOTIFY CONGRESS OF ANY PROPOSED OFFER TO
SELL F-5E AIRCRAFT TO SUDAN. AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFI-
CATION, CONGRESS WOULD HAVE 30 DAYS TO CONSIDER SALE
AND TO ADOPT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OPPOSING IT. WE
WOULD ANTICIPATE SUBSTANTIAL CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION
SHOULD QUESTION ARISE OF F-5E SALE TO SUDAN.

3. HOWEVER, WE CAN DO NO MORE THAN POINT OUT TO GOS
THE DIFFICULTIES AT THIS STAGE. CONGRESSIONAL REACTION
WOULD ULTIMATELY DEPEND ON NUMEROUS FACTORS, INCLUDING
SECURITY SITUATION IN AREA. WE 'OULD WISH TO POINT
OUT, HOWEVER, THAT NON-LETHAL ITEMS SUCH AS TRANSPORT
PLANES AND GROUND EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE A FAR BETTER
CHANCE OF PASSING CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY THAN FIGHTER
AIRCRAFT. ROBINSON

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